



Rules,  
*Orders, and Regulations,*

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRIENDLY  
AND CHARITABLE SOCIETY OF PERSONS PRO-  
FESSING THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION,  
INSTITUTED AT BURY ST. EDMUND'S, IN THE  
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, FOR THE RELIEF AND  
MAINTENANCE OF THE SEVERAL MEMBERS  
THEREOF, IN SICKNESS, OLD AGE, AND  
INFIRMITY.

*Thompson*  
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## *RULES,*

### **Orders, and Regulations.**



#### I

ANY person desirous of becoming a member of this society, must be accepted and approved of by the majority of the members, at one of their yearly meetings, and pay two shillings and six-pence entrance money to the box. He must not exceed the age of forty-five years, nor have any disease or infirmity upon him, nor subscribe or belong to any other box or society at the time of his admission; for if he exceeds the said age, or



has any disease or infirmity upon him, or subscribes, or belongs, to any other box or society at such time, he shall, so soon as the same is discovered, be excluded this society, and never afterwards be re-admitted.

## II

This society shall, out of the members, appoint and choose the following officers, viz. two stewards, who shall be also treasurers, one clerk, eleven committee men, and two supervisors; all of whom shall be chosen by the society at their respective yearly meetings, and continue in their respective offices for one year (except the supervisors, who shall be chosen at every six weeks meeting, according to their seniority in the book, and shall continue in office six weeks). Any member refusing to bear the office imposed upon him, shall forfeit six-pence to the box. One of the committee shall be also president, and shall be appointed to that office by the majority of the society at their yearly meeting.



## III

A box shall be provided for the contributions, with three locks and keys to the same; two of the keys shall be left in the hands of the stewards and treasurers for the time being, and the other key shall be left in the hands of such person as the committee, or the major part of the society, shall appoint. The keys left with the stewards shall be brought by them to the several meetings, or they shall forfeit three-pence for every such neglect.

## IV

There shall be a meeting of this society every six weeks, on Sundays, from three to five o'clock in the afternoon, at any place that shall be appointed by the majority of the members (not being a public house); and also a yearly meeting on every Whitsun-Monday, at such public house, in or near Bury, as the committee or the major part of the society shall think fit.

## V

At each six weeks meeting, every member shall, either by himself or agent, pay to the box at the rate of two-pence per week.— Every member that appears and pays not, shall forfeit one penny; and every member, who shall neither appear nor pay by agent, shall forfeit two-pence to the stock. Every member shall have entered into this society and paid his contribution money a year and a day, before he shall be deemed a free member thereof, that is, intitled to relief. Every member shall clear up all dues every quarterly meeting, or be excluded; unless the reasons for such member or members being so in arrear, shall appear good and reasonable to the committee. Also every member shall pay to the box one penny per quarter, for the clerk.

## VI

Every free member unable to work, through sickness, old age, or infirmity,

shall, after six days, give notice thereof to the supervisors ; and if they impartially judge him worthy of relief, according to the true meaning of these articles, he shall be allowed, out of the stock of this society, seven shillings per week, during six months, if his affliction or infirmity so long continues ; and after that time, three shillings and six-pence per week during the remainder of his affliction or infirmity. No such member receiving relief as aforesaid, shall do any work whatever during his affliction or infirmity, without the knowledge and consent of the supervisors ; and, previous to their giving such consent, they shall have had the opinion of the surgeon or apothecary attending him, that such work will not retard his cure. But if any such member, with such knowledge and consent as aforesaid, do and shall employ himself in any manner so as to earn something, he shall from time to time declare to the supervisors what he earned ; and his weekly earnings shall be deducted from his allow-



ance, whether the same be seven shillings or three shillings and six-pence per week: and if it should afterwards be proved that he earned more than he gave the supervisors an account of, or if he shall have worked without such knowledge and consent as aforesaid, he shall be expelled this society. If the affliction of any member shall be brought upon himself by wrestling, excessive drinking, or by a wicked and disorderly life, such member shall not be intitled to any relief whatever from the stock belonging to this society, during such his affliction.

## VII

Whenever any member dies, four pounds shall be allowed for his funeral, and the further sum of six shillings for the bearers who carry the deceased to the grave. Whenever any member is buried in Bury, every other member living there shall attend his funeral, or forfeit two-pence. Prayers shall be said on an appointed day, for the soul

of the deceased, at which every member living in Bury shall be present, or forfeit two-pence to the box. Prayers shall be said for the benefactors once a year, viz. on Whitsun-Monday, at which every member shall attend, or forfeit two-pence to the stock.

### VIII

In case the stock shall be ever reduced so low as five pounds, then every member shall pay to the box an additional two-pence per week, during the time the major part of this society shall think proper; such additional payments to be made at the usual meetings, with the original contributions: and every member shall be subject to the like penalties, in case of non-payment of such additional two-pence per week, as are herein before directed concerning the original contributions. No part of the stock belonging to this society shall be lent to any member thereof.

## IX

If any member of this society shall be notoriously given to any vice, or even idling away his time, to the prejudice of himself and family, he shall be summoned by the clerk, or supervisors, to appear before the committee the next meeting, and the president shall admonish him to amend; and if he amends not, he shall be in like manner summoned before the committee at the next two succeeding meetings, and the president at such meetings shall also admonish him: and if he amends not after three admonitions, at three such successive meetings, but shall continue his wicked course of life for two months after the third admonition, upon due proof thereof he shall be excluded this society. Or, in case of his not appearing before the committee at such meetings, or any of them, upon due proof of his being summoned as aforesaid to appear, he shall be expelled this society for his disobedience, and shall not be re-admitted till he has



amended; and then, previous to his being so re-admitted, he shall pay two shillings and six-pence entrance money to the box, and all contributions due from the time he was excluded.

## X

Every member of this society shall observe the precept for attending chapel on Sundays and holidays; any one judged able, and wilfully failing in the observance of such precept, once, shall forfeit two-pence; if twice in succession, three-pence; if three times, four-pence; and if four times successively, shall be excluded. And every member shall likewise observe the precept for Easter, or be excluded. Every member residing out of Bury, shall send a letter, post paid, to some or one of the officers of this society, with a certificate signed by the neighbouring pastor, of his having fulfilled such last-mentioned precept, which shall be shown to the supervisors.

## XI

No defrauder of the box shall be re-admitted. Every member (not being a free member) who shall either have left this society by expulsion or of his own free will, shall have no right to be re-admitted, unless he again follows the rules of admission herein-before first prescribed. And any free member, whether expelled or leaving this society voluntarily (not being a defrauder) shall have a right to be re-admitted at any age, provided the cause for which he was expelled should be removed; but, in case of re-admission, he shall pay two shillings and six-pence entrance money, and all contributions due from the time he left the society. And no member whatever, that shall be excluded this society, or shall have left it of his own free will, shall be intitled to relief in sickness, old age, or infirmity, for three months after his re-admission, in order that the committee may see he does not enter with some infirmity on him, with

a view to defraud the box; and should such fraud be proved, he shall be excluded as a defrauder.

## XII

At the yearly meetings of this society, a dinner shall be provided by the stewards and treasurers, to be paid out of the stock; and every member residing within five miles of Bury, shall give his attendance at every such yearly meeting, or forfeit one shilling, to be spent at the House. All unsettled affairs and disputes shall be settled and adjusted at such yearly meetings. No one shall be admitted to drink in the room whilst the business is transacting, nor any member admitted to return who goes out to drink; but such member or members leaving the room, to drink, shall forfeit sixpence, to be spent at the house.

## XIII

Any member who shall, at a public-house or other place, speak disrespectfully of the



religion, laws, or government of this country, shall for the first offence forfeit two shillings and six-pence to the box, and for the second be expelled. Any member who shall swear or curse by way of imprecation, shall forfeit six-pence for every such offence.

## XIV

The treasurers of this society shall, from time to time, with the consent of the members, or of the committee, at any meeting thereof to be testified by the clerks entering such consent into a book, lay out and invest all such monies, belonging to this society, as shall not be wanted for immediate expenditure, at interest, either in the public funds, or upon mortgage, bond, or note of hand, as shall be approved of by the society, or the committee thereof, at such meeting or meetings to be testified as aforesaid; and the interest of the monies so laid out and invested, shall be applied for the use of this society, and shall be deemed part of the stock belonging thereto.

## XV

The stewards and treasurers shall have all the stock of this society, and all securities, for such part thereof as shall be laid out and invested as aforesaid, intrusted to their care; and shall deposit such sums in the hands of the supervisors as shall from time to time be necessary for the members intitled to receive relief, for which they shall take the receipt of such supervisors. All securities for any part of the stock shall be taken in the names of the treasurers for the time being; they shall be answerable to the society for all the stock monies and securities intrusted to them, and shall pay and deliver the same, at the expiration of their office, to such person or persons as the society or the committee shall from time to time order and appoint, and at the same time give in a just and true account. And in case the stewards or treasurers shall misapply or embezzle any part of the stock, they shall not only be obliged to make it good to this so-

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ciety, but shall be excluded therefrom, and never afterwards be re-admitted.

## XVI

The clerk, or his deputy, shall be present at every meeting, or be deprived of his office; he shall keep all the accounts relating to this society, and be very exact therein, under the same penalty. All notices and general invitations shall belong to his office; and in case he shall know of any fraud committed or done by any of the officers intrusted with the monies and stock of this society, or any part thereof, and shall not discover the same to the committee so soon as may be, he shall be expelled this society.

## XVII

The duty of the supervisors is to visit the members intitled to or receiving relief, and to see they are properly attended to from time to time; they shall take money of the stewards and treasurers to pay them



their allowance, and shall visit such members (if they reside in Bury) within twenty-four hours after notice, or be excluded. The supervisors shall pay the allowance to the member or members intitled to receive it (if residing in Bury) into his or their own hands; but if the member or members being intitled to relief, shall be residing out of Bury, such member or members shall send some proper person to the supervisors for his or their allowance, and the supervisors shall pay such allowance to such person, and shall take his receipt for the same. They shall visit the members intitled to and receiving relief from this society, residing in Bury, at least three times a week, if necessary, or forfeit one shilling to the stock for each such neglect. The supervisors shall not be guilty of any partiality either in favour or prejudice of the sick, under pain of being excluded, if the committee shall judge their conduct deserving thereof. And if the supervisors either embezzle, or keep the monies in-

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trusted with them, instead of applying it to the use of the members intitled to receive it as aforesaid, they shall be expelled this society.

## XVIII

The committee for the time being shall act for and in the name of the society, and be invested with the same powers as the society, from yearly meeting to yearly meeting; they shall have the appointment of all officers in the stead of such as shall have refused to act, or vacated their offices by expulsion, or by death, from one yearly meeting to another; and the acts of the committee shall be binding to all the parties concerned: nevertheless, the acts of the committee shall be subject to the allowance or disallowance of the society, at their next yearly meeting.

## XIX

All matters in dispute that shall arise between this society or any person or persons

acting under them, and any individual members thereof, shall from time to time be referred to the arbitration of seven persons, being members of this society, to be elected and chosen by the majority of the members at the second six weeks meeting next after such matters in dispute shall have arisen, notice having been publicly given by the clerk, at the first meeting after such disputes had arisen, that at the said second meeting arbitrators would be elected and chosen to settle such matters in dispute; and the award, order, and determination, of such arbitrators, or the major part of them, according to the true purport and meaning of the rules, orders, and regulations herein contained, shall be binding and conclusive on all parties, and shall be final to all intents and purposes: provided that such award, order, and determination, be made and delivered to the committee at or before the six weeks meeting next after such second meeting.

## XX

It shall be the duty of the president, at all meetings of this society, to prevent by his authority any wrangling or disturbances tending to the hindrance of the business to be transacted at such meeting or meetings; and any member causing or promoting such disturbance, after being desired by the president to desist therefrom, shall forfeit two shillings and six-pence to the box for every such disobedience.

## XXI

This society shall not be dissolved or determined so long as the intents and purposes, herein declared, remain to be carried into effect, without the consent and approbation of five-sixths of the then existing members, and of all persons intitled to relief, to be testified under their hands individually and respectively; nor shall the stock and monies belonging to this society, or any part



thereof, be divided or applied to or amongst the members of this society, other than for the general purposes herein declared.

*Stewards.*

James Hunt.

The mark of + Charles Kenyon.

The mark of + Chas. Steward, sen.

Robert Harden

William Best

Thomas Jellett.

*SUFFOLK.—The general quarter sessions of the peace of our sovereign lord the King, bolden by adjournment at Bury St. Edmund's, the 31st day of December, 1794, before ] John Ord, D. D. Capel Lofft, Esq. and others, justices assigned, etc.—This court doth allow and confirm the foregoing rules, orders, and regulations, pursuant to the directions of an act of parliament in that case made and provided.*

*By the court, Notcutt, dep. cler. par.*



